

# Faith and Fixtures



ENGLAND  
HOCKEY

# A Calendar of Religious Festivals

For the 2023/2024 season we have produced a calendar of some of the most prominent faiths' observed dates and festivals. This is to help clubs and leagues ensure our hockey season supports as many players to take part as possible.

We want this information to support you to create an inclusive league environment. It will help clubs, teams and administrators consider the best dates for fixtures in your area. Clubs should check with teams if there are players in their squads whose attendance will be affected by the dates in the calendar. If there are and, if the date and festival will significantly impact the squad's ability to field a team, clubs should speak to their league at the start of the season about the fixtures that might need rearranging.

These dates may highlight the need for extra consideration, such as start times to be moved to accommodate specific practices. This is not a definitive list and people will have different perspectives on how they choose to observe the occasion. Please talk to clubs, teams and faith groups about their views and needs to understand what's best for people who may be observing the dates included. England Hockey would like leagues and opposition teams to work with clubs who are affected by religious festivals and accommodate fixture changes wherever possible. The earlier it is raised by teams, the easier it will be to adjust.

We want hockey to be an inclusive and welcoming sport for everyone and this calendar provides you with some of the tools to support that aim.

2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
BUDDHISM		10 February			15/22&23 May							
		Luna New Year			Buddha's Birthday/Vesak Day							
CHRISTIANITY			29, 31 March	1 April								25 December
			Good Friday/Easter Sunday	Easter Monday								Christmas Day
HINDUISM			24/25 March	9 April						3-12 October	31 October-4 November	
			Holika Dahan/Holi	Hindu New Year						Navaratri	Diwali	
JUDAISM			23-24 March	22-30 April	22 May	11-13 June				2-4/11-12/16-23/23-25 October		25 December-2 January
			Purim	Passover	Passover	Shavuot				Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur/Sukkot/ Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah		Chanukah (Hannukah)
ISLAM			10 March -8/9 April			16-20 June	7 July-4 August					
			Ramadan/ Eid Al-Fitr Sikh			Eid Ul-Adha	Al-Hijra/ Ashura/Muharram					
SIKHISM	17 January			13 April							1/15 November	
	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh			Vaisakhi							Diwali & Bandhi Chhor Divas/ Birthday Of Guru Nanak	

# Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The content of this guidance was produced by Inclusive Employers for England Hockey.

England Hockey is a member of Inclusive Employers to help support the game to be more inclusive and welcoming.

England Hockey's [Equality, Diversity & Inclusion](#) (EDI) Framework is designed to support everyone in the sport to create an inclusive and welcoming environment.

The EDI framework has four key outcomes:

- To reflect society and ensure hockey remains relevant in the 21st century;
- To ensure safe, respectful, inclusive cultures valuing and welcoming everyone;
- To create access for anyone from any background to participate in hockey; and
- Ensure the reputation of hockey is regarded as excellent in its commitment to ED&I